

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-48 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 3, 6, 13, 16, 19, 21 and 33-48 being independent.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 13, 16, 19, 21 and 33-48 have been amended. Applicants submit that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure at least, for example, at page 22, lines 1-9. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 11, 19, 20, 33-35, 37-40, and 42-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,832,319 (Bell et al.). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. Claim 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,557,102 (Wong et al.). Claims 13-18, 21-27, 29-32, 36, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. in view of Wong et al. and further in view of “An Introduction to Microsoft NetShow Services and Advanced Streaming Format.” Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Bell et al. in view of “Screen Shots,” as explained at page 10 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in each of the independent claims, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature wherein, when a content data file is copied to a destination file, a value held by the life counter of the content data file being copied is reduced by one half and the reduced value is copied to a life counter of the destination file. As a result, the total sum of the life counters of the original data content file and the destination file is the same as the original life counter value. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least this feature.

Bell, et al. discloses that copying of data is limited and, more particularly, that a control instruction for permitting "once copy" may be issued. Wong et al. discloses a copy protection system using a content provider coupled by the Internet. However, neither of those references discloses or suggests at least the above-mentioned feature where, when a data content file is copied, the life counter of the file is reduced by one half and the reduce value is copied to the destination file. The other cited art also fails to disclose or suggest at least this feature.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in the independent claims is patentable over the cited art, whether that art is considered individually or taken in combination. The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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